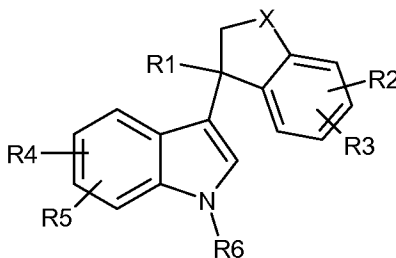


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein,

X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH₂S-, or -CH₂NR¹⁰-;

R¹ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine;

R² represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R³ represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R⁴ represents hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, NHSO₂R⁷, NHCOR⁸, or COR⁹;

R⁵ represents hydrogen or halo;

R⁶ represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

R⁷ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl, aryl, NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine;

R⁸ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, or aryl(C₁-C₄)alkoxy;

R⁹ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, and

R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂O-, or -CH₂S-.

3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2 wherein X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, or -CH₂O-.

4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH₂- or -CH₂CH₂-.

5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH₂O-.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim ~~6~~ 1 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine.

8. (Original) The compound according to Claim 7 wherein R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 1 wherein R² represents hydrogen, halo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle.

10. (Original) The compound according to Claim 9 wherein R² represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or isopropyl.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-10~~ Claim 1 wherein R³ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, or bromo.

12. (Original) The compound according to Claim 11 wherein R³ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-12~~ Claim 1 wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, NHSO₂R⁷, NHCOR⁸ wherein R⁸ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, or COR⁹ wherein R⁹ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or (C₁-C₄)alkoxy.

14. (Original) The compound according to Claim 13 wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, or NH SO₂R⁷.

15. (Original) The compound according to Claim 14 wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, or NH SO₂R⁷ wherein R⁷ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl, aryl, or N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-15~~ Claim 1 wherein R⁵ represents hydrogen, chloro, or fluoro.

17. (Original) The compound according to Claim 16 wherein R⁵ represents hydrogen.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-17~~ Claim 1 wherein R⁶ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl.

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1-18~~ Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

- 20. (Cancelled)
- 21. (Cancelled)
- 22. (Cancelled)
- 23. (Cancelled)
- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A method of treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension, asthma, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 26 wherein the disorder is diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, hypertension, or rheumatoid arthritis.

28. (New) A method of treating atherosclerosis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (New) A compound which is N-[3-(1-Ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (New) A compound which is N-[3-(6-Fluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (New) A compound which is N-[3-(6,8-Difluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. (New) A compound which is N-[3-(4-Ethyl-7-fluoro-chroman-4-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. (New) A compound which is N-[3-(1-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.